

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Roschke* DATE *6/7/83*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXCISE

CLASSIFIED ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. ☐ ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
REASON(S) ☐ WASHINGTON
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ *November 10, 1980*
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS *B1/AS & BS*

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MEMORANDUM FOR: S/S - Mr. Peter Tarnoff

FROM: CA - Bob Fritts

SUBJECT: Potential Transition Issues

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Classified* DATE *6/7/83*

CLASSIFIED ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. ☐ REASON(S) *OADR*
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Foreign Entry Into The U. S. - The Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy is mandated by Congress to recommend and prepare draft legislation on foreign entry into the U. S. be it legal (immigration and refugees) or illegal. The Commission (with the Secretary as a Commissioner) will reach initial decisions in late December and its formal recommendations will be sent to the new President and Congress in March. The proposals (affecting primarily immigration and illegals) are bound to be controversial and will serve as a focal point over the next several years for an emerging national debate. From the State perspective, there are important implications for foreign policies and overseas operations.

The topic might also be appropriate for a broad Administration study in response to the Select Commission's report.

Iranian Sanctions

Cults - In light of the Jonestown tragedy, State is concerned for the welfare and safety of American citizens in a number of group "cult-like" situations overseas.

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[REDACTED] 31/AS
As with Jonestown, there is also the broad issue of the degree to which U. S. officials can or should become involved with the activities of private Americans overseas.

CA:BFritts:mcg:11/10/80

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We support the effort of the newly expanded Committee on Disarmament to ... work toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons, and we continue to pursue our bilateral negotiations with the Soviet Union on an effective prohibition against chemical weapons.

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Before I leave this subject, let me emphasize our deep concern over another arms control matter. If arms control is to be successful, agreements must be fully honored. Questions such as those raised by persistent reports that chemical weapons have been used in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea cannot be ignored by the international community. To do so would undermine both arms control and international law. The United States, therefore, welcomes the emphasis placed by the Committee on Disarmament at its most recent session on the need for international efforts to determine the facts behind these reports. We believe that an impartial investigation into these reports could most appropriately be launched under the auspices of the United Nations.

The U.S. Government is not in a position to either confirm or deny conclusively reports of the use of chemical weapons in those areas where the U.S. has no presence, such as the area reportedly affected in Laos. However, the issue is sufficiently serious and the reports of sufficient significance and credibility to warrant a thorough, impartial international investigation.

Whether these particular reports are true or not, larger issues such as verification of treaty requirements are at stake, and the entire international community has an interest in seeing that chemical warfare is not used.

On November 17, the United Nations General Assembly voted 72-17-36 for a resolution to establish an investigation. A commission has been named, and it has begun to gather information. The U.S. will support such investigation. We have supplied the UN with advice and